

economy stronger and more competitive.

Mr. Speaker, the choice before us today is clear. We can prop up a broken Tax Code and maintain the status quo, or we can pass the most sweeping tax overhaul in three decades and deliver historic tax relief to those who need it most.

Let's pass the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and ensure a brighter future for the families we represent.

THE REPUBLICAN TAX SCAM

(Ms. JAYAPAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to say no to this outrageous tax bill and do what is right for the American people.

This bill gives more riches to the richest Republican donors, at the expense of middle class families and the poorest. This bill does what the American people already said no to, which is, it dismantles the Affordable Care Act. It throws 13 million Americans off of their healthcare and increases premiums for millions more.

This tax bill eliminates most of the State and local tax deduction and shortchanges so many communities across the Nation, slashing education funding by as much as \$152 billion over the next decade.

This tax heist runs up the deficit by \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion and triggers automatic spending cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and services that children and seniors depend on.

This tax scam gives 80 percent of the benefits to the top 1 percent. That is a war on any idea of opportunity and income equality in this country. It is not tax reform, and I urge a "no" vote.

COPS AND KIDS

(Mr. BUDD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, our policemen and -women wake up every day and do a job that is dangerous and often thankless. They are truly servants of the public and protectors of those who cannot help themselves. If that weren't enough, I wanted to speak briefly today to highlight officers who have gone even further.

Mr. Speaker, the Iredell County Fraternal Order of Police recently held a Cops and Kids event in Mooresville, North Carolina. Through their generosity, more than two dozen families got around \$100 worth of toys, clothes, and gifts for their loved ones. The stories of struggle for these families, brightened by a moment of generosity, are the stories we see around the country this Christmas.

I am awed and humbled by the efforts of these officers. I want to especially congratulate Tommy Chipman, presi-

dent of the Iredell County Fraternal Order of Police; Duck Wyatt, the second vice president; and all those who participated to help make this Christmas a better one for families in the community.

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, for those with silk stockings, it is a very Merry Christmas indeed. The billionaires get stuffed, but we get coal. It is like a White Elephant gift exchange. The billionaires grab the good gifts, and the leftovers go to working families, though they get the bill for everything.

How many millions of dollars the Trump family will personally stuff in their pockets cannot be precisely determined, only because of continuing Republican collusion to cover up Trump's personal tax returns.

Excluding the public, refusing to even permit Democrats to offer an amendment, Republicans dumped this proposal out this weekend and now demand an immediate vote. The dangers lurking in this bill for economic opportunity, for tax fairness, are very real, but they are overshadowed by the dangers to our democracy from these Trump tactics to impose his rule on America.

Republicans decided the only way to pass their program was to hide it. Let's reject it today.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THOMAS PERSEO

(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a lifelong public servant, Mr. Thomas Perseo, who will be retiring on January 10, 2018, after 43 years of faithful service to north-central Florida's community in law enforcement.

Mr. Perseo began his career in Green Cove Springs, Florida, in the police department in September 1974. He served his hometown community until 1982, and then moved to Gainesville, Florida.

Upon his move, Officer Perseo started working for the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. He is currently a warrant investigator, and, after 35 years of dedicated law enforcement service with an exemplary record, Tom will be starting the next chapter of his life.

Tom is a shining example of what it means to be an American. He has dedicated his life to serving our community, and I have no doubt he will continue to do so in retirement. I am proud to represent such a hardworking individual and also to have the honor of being his friend.

For myself, and all of Florida's Third District, I wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

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HONORING CALVIN IRVIN

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Calvin Irvin, a native of New Jersey and a resident of Greensboro, North Carolina, who passed away November 25, 2017.

Cal, as he was fondly called, was an honorable man, dedicated to his community and to mentoring young student athletes. Over his career, he served as coach of Johnson C. Smith University's basketball team, and later as professor and head coach of North Carolina A&T's basketball team for 18 years.

Cal always emphasized the importance of education, ensuring the dedication and perseverance that his athletes learned on the court was also exhibited in the classroom.

A devoted citizen of the Greensboro community, he served in countless civic roles, including treasurer of the Convention and Tourism Bureau and a lifelong member of the NAACP.

He brought his generous spirit and his heart home with him, too. He was a loving husband to his beloved wife, Kathryn, and to his nephew who was like a brother.

As my longtime dear friend and supporter, Cal's golden heart shined a bright spot in my life, too. He will be sorely missed. His loss will be felt throughout our entire State and beyond.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with his wife, Kathryn, his family, his friends, and his community.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING GEORGE C. SHEPPARD

(Mr. NORMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, January 2, 2018, is a great day for the mayor of Tega Cay, South Carolina.

Let me read the proclamation:

"Whereas, serving as an elected official in local government requires sacrifice, passion, and dedication; and

"Whereas, as George C. Sheppard was elected as the mayor of the city of Tega Cay on November 10, 2009, after serving 2 years as the city's mayor pro tempore; and

"Whereas, Mayor Sheppard faithfully and dutifully served as the city's mayor for 8 years; and

"Whereas, during his two terms as mayor, the city of Tega Cay prospered and solidified its place in the region."

Mayor Sheppard, Godspeed in your retirement, and thank you for your service to the great city of Tega Cay, South Carolina.

EVIDENCE WHY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE REJECT THE TAX BILL

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)